

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/819,856

Examiner

Scott L. Jarrett

Applicant(s)

GOTO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/6/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 46-52.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/28/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Romain Jeanty
ROMAIN JEANTY
Primary Examiner
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ALLOWANCE

The following is an Allowance in response to the Request for Continued Examination submitted on September 6, 2007 and the June 6, 2007 Amendment submitted on October 25, 2006. The amendment amended claims 46-52. Currently claims 46-52 are pending and allowed below.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The present invention is directed to a work management system having a management apparatus connected to a plurality of specialized mobile telephones (Figure 18) over a wireless network for setting work schedules both for normal work operation and for special events wherein the system generates and distributes to select groups of employees (e.g. according to job types that employees can engage in, qualification, experience, etc.) a temporary shift table indicating the employee's set work schedule, identifies time slots in which workforce shortages occur, derives a number of vacancies for those time slots, and distributes an e-mail, to the plurality of mobile telephones, for recruiting persons to fill workforce shortages occurring in the time slot, employees send application information in response to such e-mails, via their mobile telephones, and the system generates and distributes a settled shift table based on the employee responses.

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The closest prior art Pipkin, Inc.'s Maxima Advantage system (Pipkin), Visual Staff Scheduler Pro or Prime Time F&S fail to teach or suggest either singularly or in combination a work management system comprising: a management apparatus connected to a plurality of mobile telephones via a network, wherein said management apparatus comprises: a second information acquiring unit that displays an event setting screen for setting a date of an event, and a number of persons needed for each of predetermined time slots on the date of the event, which number is different from an ordinarily needed number of persons on said display unit, and acquires information including a date and a number of persons; a temporary shift table generation unit that generates a temporary shift table in which work schedules of employees are temporarily set based on the information stored in said work management file and said employee information file; a temporary shift table distribution unit that distributes an e-mail including an address for browsing said temporary shift table generated by said temporary shift table generation unit, to said mobile telephones via said network; a recruiting information distribution unit that identifies a time slot in which workforce shortages are occurring, derives a number of vacancies, and distributes an e-mail for recruiting a person to fill a workforce shortage occurring in the time slot according to the response information received by said response information receiving unit, to said mobile telephones of employees who belong to a group in question and who are not on the job during the time slot; a settled shift table generation unit that generates a settled shift table in which scheduled working hours of employees are settled, based on the response information received by said response information receiving unit and the

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application information received by said application information receiving unit; and a settled shift table distribution unit that distributes an e-mail including an address for browsing said settled shift table generated by said settled shift table generation unit to said mobile telephones via said network, and wherein said mobile telephones comprises: a response information sending unit that sends response information including an approval for said temporary shift table displayed on said display unit, or a request for re-organizing of said temporary shift table to said management apparatus; and an application information sending unit that sends application information to said management apparatus in response to a key manipulation of the user, after said e-mail distributed from said recruiting information distribution unit is received, wherein said display unit displays said settled shift table at said address in response to a key manipulation of the user, after said e-mail distributed from said settled shift table distribution unit is received as recited in independent Claim 46, 51 and 52.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

None of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach, inter alia, a method, system and computer readable recording medium storing a program for controlling a computer a work management system comprising: a

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management apparatus connected to a plurality of mobile telephones via a network, wherein said management apparatus comprises: a second information acquiring unit that displays an event setting screen for setting a date of an event, and a number of persons needed for each of predetermined time slots on the date of the event, which number is different from an ordinarily needed number of persons on said display unit, and acquires information including a date and a number of persons; a temporary shift table generation unit that generates a temporary shift table in which work schedules of employees are temporarily set based on the information stored in said work management file and said employee information file; a temporary shift table distribution unit that distributes an e-mail including an address for browsing said temporary shift table generated by said temporary shift table generation unit, to said mobile telephones via said network; a recruiting information distribution unit that identifies a time slot in which workforce shortages are occurring, derives a number of vacancies, and distributes an e-mail for recruiting a person to fill a workforce shortage occurring in the time slot according to the response information received by said response information receiving unit, to said mobile telephones of employees who belong to a group in question and who are not on the job during the time slot; a settled shift table generation unit that generates a settled shift table in which scheduled working hours of employees are settled, based on the response information received by said response information receiving unit and the application information received by said application information receiving unit; and a settled shift table distribution unit that distributes an e-mail including an address for browsing said settled shift table generated by said settled shift

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table generation unit to said mobile telephones via said network, and wherein said mobile telephones comprises: a response information sending unit that sends response information including an approval for said temporary shift table displayed on said display unit, or a request for re-organizing of said temporary shift table to said management apparatus; and an application information sending unit that sends application information to said management apparatus in response to a key manipulation of the user, after said e-mail distributed from said recruiting information distribution unit is received, wherein said display unit displays said settled shift table at said address in response to a key manipulation of the user, after said e-mail distributed from said settled shift table distribution unit is received as recited in independent Claim 46, 51 and 52.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Harrison et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,990,458, teach a workforce scheduling system and method for scheduling employees/technicians for work orders.
- Jilk et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,155,400, teach a system and method for workforce management comprising setting workforce personnel schedules and automatically recruiting workers/employees to fill workforce schedules.
- Hunter et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0040313, teach a system and method for setting workforce/employee schedules in real time wherein employees provide schedule information via a plurality of remoter terminals/devices.
- Smith, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0103691, teach a workforce management system and method for setting employee workforce schedules comprising a plurality of employee wireless devices wherein the system/method methods determines workforce requirements, identifies workforce shortages for temporary events (peak hours, employee schedule cancellations/absences) and enables employees to accept/reject workforce schedules.
- House et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003.028410, teach a workforce management system and method comprising a plurality of wireless devices connected over a wireless network wherein the system identifies and fills workforce shortages/vacancies.

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- Scott, WO 02/069231, teach a workforce management system and method for filling workforce/employee vacancies/shortages over a network (Internet).

- Collins et al., Automated Assignment and Scheduling of Service Personnel (1994) teach a workforce management system and method for setting employee/workforce schedules.

- Kasavana, Computers and multiunit food-service operations (1994), teach the well-known utilization of automated labor management and human resource planning systems and methods for determining staffing requirements and setting workforce schedules based on the determined staffing requirements for a plurality of workforce categories/groups.

- High-Tech Staff Scheduling (1998), teaches an automated workforce scheduling and management system and method for setting and updating (rescheduling) workforce/employee schedules.

- Thompson, Labor Scheduling Parts 2&3 (1998, 1999), teach a system and method for determining staffing requirements, recruiting staff to fill schedule/workforce vacancies/openings and setting workforce schedules/

- DuCote et al., A Design of Personnel Scheduling Software For Manufacturing (1999), teaches a workforce management system and method for setting schedules for a plurality of employee groups/categories.

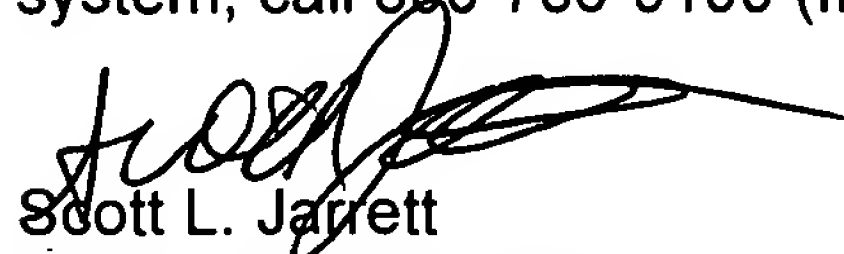
- Kronos Smart Scheduler (1999), teaches a commercially available workforce management system and method comprising determining staffing requirements, recruiting staff to fill schedule vacancies/openings and settling staff schedules.

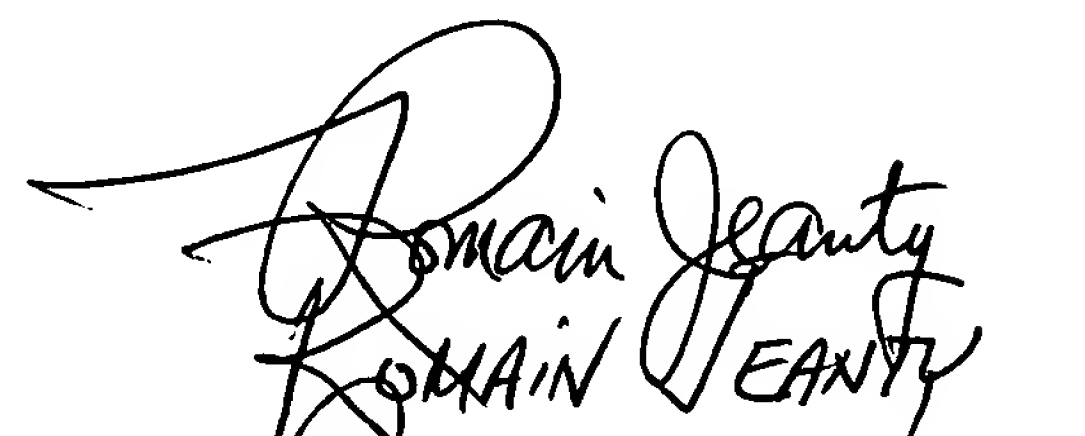
- PrimeTime F&S User's Guide Version 1.3 (1998), teaches a commercially available workforce scheduling system and method comprising determining a number of persons needed for predetermine time slots, identifying employee shortages and deriving a number of vacancies, recruiting employees to fill the vacancies/shortages/schedule and finalizing/settling the employee schedules.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott L. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hafiz Tariq can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Scott L. Jarrett
September 24, 2007


ROMAIN JEANTY
Primary Examiner
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